



Choctaw Stewardship News

In Cooperation and Understanding With



MBCI Department of Natural Resources

Growing The Future!

Choctaw Stewardship is taking care of the Earth . From Nanih Waiya to Chucalissa and beyond , practice good stewardship!

E-Newsletter Becomes Reality . Why a email newsletter ? Well, we thought it would be a good way to get the word out to folks interested in conservation and education on Tribal lands and it may save a tree or two. Oh well , If you like it, tell us about it at choctawstewardshipnews@gmail.com



Kids playing with lamb down on the farm

Mississippi Choctaw Youth Go Ag –CEL

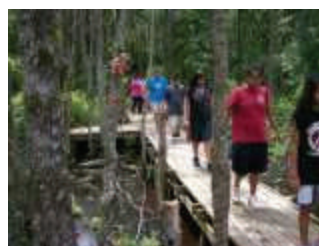
In national studies concerning youth in America today, there has been a sharp decline in awareness of agriculture and natural resources. This trend has especially been detrimental in the knowledge of where our food originates and the hard work it takes to set the American dinner table. With this trend, young people in America also lose the knowledge of how important our natural resources are to our daily lives.

In many cases when young people are asked where their food comes from, the response is usually the grocery store. And when ask about general paper products the response is usually in the same realm, Wal-Mart, K-Mart or just the department store in town. This trend is not just elsewhere, it is affecting youth in Mississippi as well.

The Mississippi Choctaw being aware of this trend has understood for more years than is recorded in American history books, that an understanding and appreciation for nature is a Native American tradition that must not merely dwindle away in our fast pace world of today. The purveyors of American agriculture and natural resources have done such an effective job providing these life essentials, that the average citizen of the U.S. and Mississippi has not had the concern of producing food for the table or materials for housing. It's easy to understand how a disconnect between agriculture and nature can happen when parents are busy making a living elsewhere in the business world.

The Mississippi Choctaw has been taking a proactive approach to this trend and has worked with the Mississippi State University Extension Service and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to assist with reintroducing tribal youth to this tradition of understanding the natural world and agriculture. Such tribal departments as the Youth Opportunity Program, Tribal 4H, Boys and Girls Clubs and the Choctaw Central High School have been working to enlighten youth to these overlooked aspects of modern life.

The approach the tribe has chosen to take is making sure the tribal youth get a chance to actually see where their food, fiber, and natural resources originate and how it gets to the consumer. Each of these tribal interties has made available the resources for their youth to participate in field trips to such places as the Noxubee Refuge, sweet potato, dairy, sheep, row crop farms and equine facilities. The Tribal High School has even authorized a program unique to the Mississippi Choctaw called AG-CEL, which stands for Agriculture for Choctaw Empowerment and Life. The Ag-CEL program is designed to introduce tribal high school juniors to agriculture and natural resource related careers which will give tribal youth alternative options of careers they may want to pursue. (Continued on page 4)



Wetland Discovery Classroom in Conehatta Opens Soon !

photo by Jim McAdory

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date
April –June 2012

Upcoming Events

Annual Choctaw Farmers Market growers meeting - March 28th at The Natural Resources complex on Black Jack Rd. starting at 10am.

SDPI aftercore meeting Home Canning each Monday in June.

-Neshoba County Lunch and Learn garden programs every third Thursday at the Neshoba coliseum at noon.

-Wetland Discovery Outdoor Classroom April 9-13

-SDPI after core meeting each Monday in April at noon, topic: Sweet potato vs. White potato

-Wildlife Dept. training topic: Fisheries Management- April 18th and May 31st

-AG-CEL field trips for CCHS junior class May 8th and 9th at MSU

Home canning workshop June 18th at 6:00 pm at the MBCI Department of Natural Resources Blackjack Road

Stewardship Definitions

Hybrid: The offspring of two animals or plants of different breeds, varieties or species, especially as produced through human manipulation for specific genetic characteristics.

Rhizome: Horizontal underground plant stem (**Swamp Cane**) Capable of producing the shoot root stems of a new plant.

Stolon : Stem which grow at the soils surface or just below ground that form roots at the node, and new plant from the buds.

Seasonal High Tunnel

Submitted by : Tim Oakes

Recently Tribal Members from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians toured a Seasonal High Tunnel located at The Mississippi State University Research Facility at the South Farm. As part of a Green Re-Entry Program Grant, “The Advisers and Councilors from the Youth Court Services wanted to explore the potential use of the tunnel at the Osapausi Amasalichi or Healing Garden located in the Pearl River community and were impressed with it’s potential” . said Jim McAdory , MSU Tribal Extension Agent.

Seasonal high tunnels are structures made of plastic or metal pipe and covered with plastic or other sheeting. Easy to build, maintain, and move, they provide an energy-efficient way to extend the growing season, reduce or avoid use of pesticides and reduce run off and leaching of nitrogen. Unlike greenhouses, they require no energy, relying on natural sunlight to modify the climate inside to create favorable conditions for growing vegetable and other specialty crops.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is also providing some financial assistance for seasonal high tunnels as part of a three-year trial to determine their effectiveness in conserving water, reducing pesticide use, maintaining vital soil nutrients, and increasing crop yields.



Stewardship Learning



USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Native American Heritage Month Posters given away to Tribal schools each November .

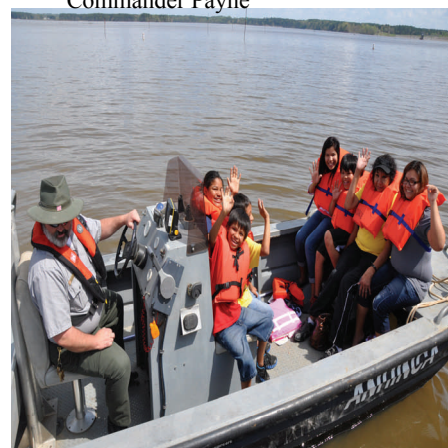
MBCI Students learn the facts from Tim Oakes using an enviroscape model on how to be good stewards of the land. (Mrs. Pancrantz 7th grade class)
photo by Jim McAdory

Wes Neal MSU Biologist with YOP

YOP at MSU



Commander Payne



4-Hers learn Water Safety at Corp of Engineers Lake Okatibbee with Corp Officer, Scott Payne .



4-Hers introduced to reptiles by Mitiz Reed



4-H,ers and 4 leaf clovers



My job as an Extension agent is to facilitate and implement the tribes wishes for its' educational endeavors. On a personal note I've been very impressed with how this tribe is addressing this issue of keeping the tradition of agriculture and natural resources awareness. I learned in a recent class I had taken that when Hernando Desoto explored Mississippi; he discovered many acres cultivated and in agriculture production. He also wrote in his journal he could ride his horse in a full gallop through the forest and not hit a hanging branch or slowed due to undergrowth. What he found was expertly managed forest and crops worked with masterful hands that supplied all the needs of the indigenous people, which are the ancestors of you the reader of this article. Looks as though the tribe is teaching a new generation how to appreciate, manage and prosper in the ever changing world. As for me, I thank the tribe for allowing the Mississippi State University Extension Service to play a role in the education of the tribal youth.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Mississippi Choctaw Field Office and MSU Tribal Extension Office
Phone 601-656-9679 or 601-656-2070

Helping People Help the Land!



This news letter is provided by the office of the Tribal Extension Agent, Jim McAdory, Mississippi State University Extension Service through the Federal Recognized Tribal Extension Program .



And by : The office of Tim Oakes, Tribal Liaison ,
Mississippi Choctaw Field Office , USDA Natural
Resources Conservation Service.

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Students Study Cultural Arts and learn about Culturally Significant Plants from Martha Ferguson MBCI

photo by Tim Oakes

Special Youth Edition !!!

Newsletter Date
May 7th , 2012



This is a special edition for National Wetlands Month . We hope that you enjoy it . If you would like to have more information on this and more services our office provides please contact the editing staff .

Tim Oakes and Jim McAdory 601-656-9679

Self-Determination

submitted by: Timothy Oakes USDA/NRCS

The Schools of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians are an example of Self-Determination and Educational Assistance.

Students this past week enjoyed the opportunity to learn at the Wetlands Discovery Outdoor Learning Center in Conehatta MS and how they are connected by use of culturally significant plants, animals, insects and human beings that use wetlands. Many of us forget about how this opportunity was accomplish.

Since its introduction by President Richard Nixon, Public Law 93-638, or the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, as it is referred, gave the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians opportunity to exercising it right of self – governance. A Few years ago the MBCI entered into a contract with the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist in the development of this wetland . The MBCI Schools recognized an opportunity to work with Tim Oakes Tribal Liaison with the Mississippi Choctaw Field Office /USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service and Jim McAdory of MSU Extension Service and other MBCI Departments on the development of the curriculum for the outdoor classrooms.

Stewardship Definitions

Cultural Significant Plants :

Arundinaria Gigantea— Also known as Swamp Cane , River Cane , Fishing Cane ,Basket Cane Plant.

Rhizome: Horizontal underground plant stem (**Swamp Cane**)Capable of producing the shoot root stems of a new plant.

Stolon : Stem which grow at the soils surface or just below ground that form roots at the node, and new plant from the buds.



Wetland Discovery Outdoor Learning Center

Stations were provided to assist in additional learning

Tribal School Grades 1-4

04/12

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians



Martha Ferguson Cultural Arts



A. Anderson & E. Chickaway Native Arts

Culturally Significant Plants and Cultural Arts



Dalton Henry with the MBCI Schools and Tim Oakes



Tim Oakes Cultural Resources and planting Swamp Cane

Wetland Wildlife & Cultural Resources



Leslie Burger and Wetland Wildlife



Justin Otter

Stewardship Learning



Jim McAdory and Wildlife



Mitzi Reed and Reptiles

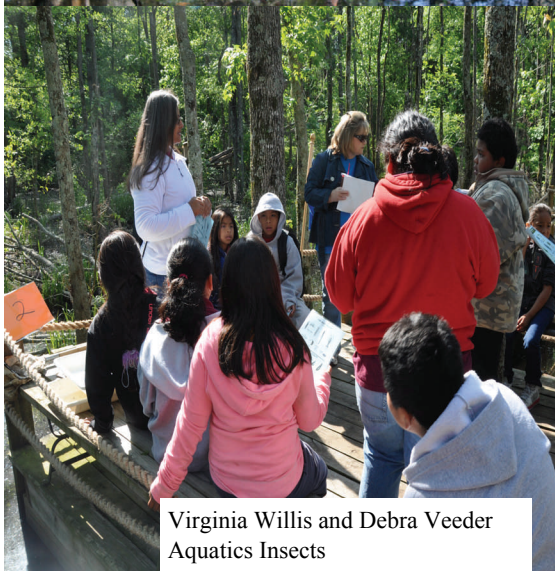
Animals ,Reptiles ,Entomology , Rabbit Stick Throw ,Storytelling, Smoky Bear



Boardwalk over the swamp



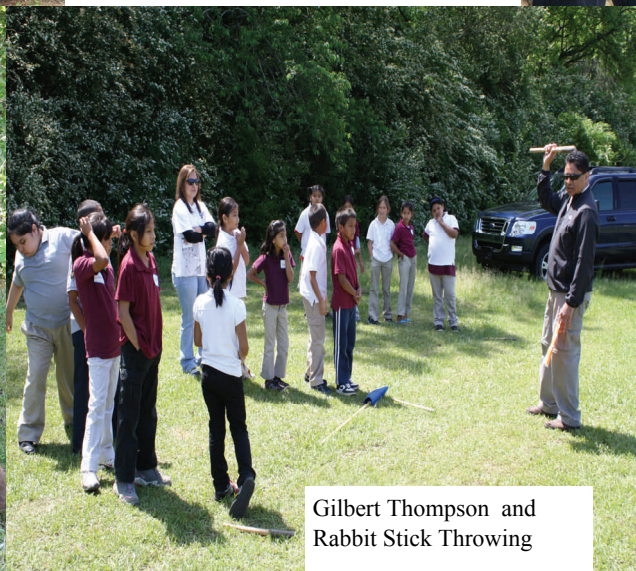
Native Story telling with Ronald Gibson



Virginia Willis and Debra Veeder
Aquatics Insects



Earline Willis as
SMOKEY



Gilbert Thompson and
Rabbit Stick Throwing



Young Stewards



Submitted by Jim McAdory

There were several hundred Choctaw elementary students that participated in a unique program on the Conehatta reservation. This program is better known as the "Wetland Discover Outdoor Classroom". This facility is complete with a nature trail and a boardwalk through a natural and enhanced wetland area.

This facility's purpose is to give life to some of the aspects of science that the students see in their text books and hear the teachers explain. This event will become an annual experience for the tribal youth through a working partnership between the Choctaw Tribal Elementary Schools staff, Tribal Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

This event highlighted some of the natural world's plants and animals that we share with our neighbors. Some of the educational experiences for the youth were: planting seeds and how plants grow, poisonous and non poisonous snakes, mammals and how they communicate, aquatic insects, animals of the wetland, cultural plants and their uses, forestry practices, and a fun rabbit stick throw.

A special thanks to our presenters, educators and volunteers , Conehatta recreation ,for this event: Dalton Henry , MBCI Schools Transportation , Peggy Crowe and Nell Adkins DOS , Mitzi Reed, MBCI Wildlife (Reptiles) Ronald Gibson (Story Telling) & Virginia Willis with Tribal 4H, (Entomology)Gilbert Thompson, Interim Director DNR (Rabbit Stick Throwing) Brantley Willis ,the crew at MBCI Department of Natural Resources , Candy Jimmie, Madge Issac, (Waiter and Posters) Karla Keats, (Planting Seeds) Robin Allen, (Forestry) and Johnny Dixon, (Cultural Resources) Leslie Burger (Wetland Animals) & Jim McAdory with MSU Extension Service , (Wildlife) , Debra Veeder (Aquatics) with the Adopt A Stream program, Mississippi Natural Science Museum, Tim Oakes,(Planting Swamp Cane) Tribal Liaison for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service , Bobby Smith (Overview) with Choctaw Tribal Schools . Martha Ferguson and Phyllis McMillan Museum of Choctaw Culture , Eleanor Chickaway and Amita Anderson for their assistance on Choctaw Cultural plant use . A Very Special Thanks goes out to Brian Billy and the staff at Choctaw Recycling for all the extra materials they provided to make benches for Wetland Discovery.

Through these efforts we are surely exposing the young to visual aspects of our land so they will appreciate the plant and animal life we share our planet with, and the connection we all share. This is nothing new, we have been handed down from generation to generation a natural world that has provided our every need and benefitted us greatly. We can thank the generations of the past for being good stewards of the land for us, so we now will hopefully start a new generation of young stewards for the generations to come.

On Behalf of Mississippi State University Extension Service; I thank all of you that participated not for me, but for the young people we were able to influence, and educate for this short week.



Youth Page Find All the Wildlife !!!!!

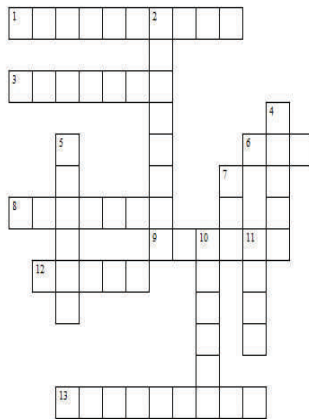
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Robin Allen and Forestry



Animals Crossword Puzzle

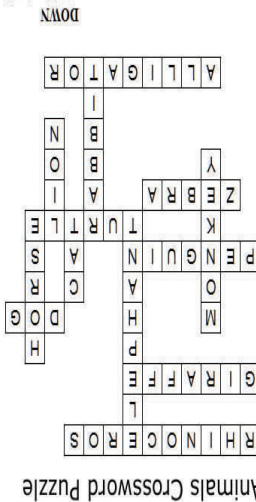


ACROSS

- 1 Big animal that has one horn
- 3 This animal has a very long neck
- 6 Man's best friend
- 8 Lives in the cold and waddles
- 9 Slow moving and has a shell
- 12 Striped animal that looks like a horse
- 13 Can swim under water and walk on land and has a big bite

DOWN

- 2 This animal has a long trunk
- 4 This animal likes to eat carrots and sugar cubes
- 5 This animal loves bananas
- 7 Some say this animal has nine lives
- 10 Has big ears and likes to hop
- 11 King of the jungle



Animals Crossword Puzzle

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And by : The office of Tim Oakes, Tribal Liaison , Mississippi Choctaw Field Office , USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Vol. 1 Issue 2

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Robert Ben (AKA Berto) Green Re-Entry Garden Program and Jim McAdory MSU Tribal Agent discussing diseases that effect cabbage

Newsletter Date June 2012

Upcoming events:

Grazing Land Conservation Field Day- June 21st, Dr. Jim Anderson's Farm 1315 Willis Road off of Hwy 16W Carthage, MS at 4:30pm

Choctaw Residential Garden program June 22nd at 10:30am

Choctaw Wildlife and Parks Fisheries training June 29th

Interactive Lunch and Learn at Neshoba Coliseum June 21st (gardening program)

Home canning workshop in July- Contact Jim McAdory for date and time (601-656-2070).

We hope you enjoy our Newsletter . If you would like to have more information on our services ,please contact our editing staff

Timothy Oakes – 601- 656-9679

Jim McAdory - 601- 656-2070

Stewardship Definitions

Pyrethrum : Is the name of a natural insecticide made from the dried flower heads of the *Chrysanthemum cinerariifolium* and *Chrysanthemum coccineum*.

Permethrin: A synthetic (man -made or Pyrethroid) insecticides based on natural pyrethrum.

Non-Selective Herbicide : A chemical that causes a negative and harmful reaction to all plants it comes in contact with.

Selective Herbicide: A chemical that will kill either grass or broadleaf.

Pre-Emerge Herbicide: A group of chemicals that are applied before weed seeds germinate.

Post Emerge Herbicide: A group of chemicals applied to weeds after the seeds germinate.

Stewardship Tools of the Trade

submitted by: Jim McAdory MSU Tribal Agent

When learning about stewardship it's important to learn about tools of the trade, so to speak. I give presentations to various groups on tribal lands and all around our local area about matters concerning stewardship. Many times I reference some of the tools used to accomplish goals good land stewards need to produce crops, manage weeds, insects and so on.

Every time I speak to groups I always love to entertain questions at the end of the presentations, and I usually get some of the same questions each time. So let's look at some of the questions I get at these events which address some of the more common tools that (just so happen to be very safe) good land stewards can definitely use.

First question, let's address just what a Bt pesticide is and what it does. Bt is short for *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which is a natural bacterium in the genus *Bacillus*. Bt occurs in nature predominantly as spores that can disseminate widely throughout the environment. Bt is very safe to humans and the environment. In fact there have not been any reports of harm to humans in nearly 50 years since it's been used as an insecticide. *See Stewardship Tools on page 2*

Stewardship Tools of the Tradecontinued from page 1

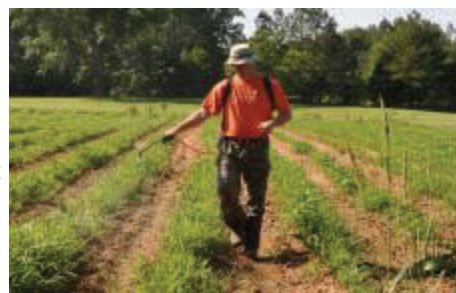
Next let's take a look at another pesticide, **Pyrethrum**. Pyrethrum refers to several Old World plants of the genus *Chrysanthemum*; which as you know your hay bale decoration wouldn't be complete without in the fall every year. Pyrethrum is also the name of a natural insecticide made from the dried flower heads of *Chrysanthemum*.

You'll also see a name very similar to pyrethrum on some insecticide bottles. Have you ever seen the name **Permethrin**? Permethrins are synthetic (man -made) insecticides based on natural pyrethrum. Permethrin, being man made is considered a pyrethroid. These chemicals have been around since the 1960s and can be found in insect repellents, household insect spray, and industrial sprays for insects which infest crops. These products made from the pyrethrum are very safe and readily available. Consider these products as an effective tool to keep in mind for many pesky insects.



Lastly, I get asked about spraying "Round Up" quite a bit in just about every garden and landscape venue. Most people refer to Round Up as if it were the active ingredient to be used, but Round Up is a brand name and the active ingredient is actually Glyphosate. Monsanto developed and patented the glyphosate molecule in the 1970s, and marketed Round Up since 1973. It retained exclusive rights in the U.S. until its patent expired in September, 2000. Many other companies have now started manufacturing glyphosate under many different brand names.

Monsanto also produces seeds which grow into plants genetically engineered to be tolerant to glyphosate, which are known as *Round Up Ready* crops. The genes contained in these seeds are patented by the Monsanto Company. Such crops allow farmers to use glyphosate as a post-emergent herbicide against most weed problems thus eliminating the need for many other herbicides pre or post applied. Such Round Up Ready crops include cotton, corn, and soybeans.



If you will notice, you'll see multiple products on the shelves of all the well known chain stores and the local farm supply establishments that state they are non-selective herbicides. These herbicides in most cases will be one of the glyphosate products put out by another company other than Monsanto, some other trade names of such products just to name a few are, Eraser, Cornerstone, and Killzall. These products all work exactly the same and contain the same active ingredient, although there may be some difference in the percent of glyphosate. Many times the cheaper glyphosate product will be a lower percentage, meaning it may be 10% where as the more expensive will be a 41 to 44% product. You usually get what you pay for in just about anything, so make sure you always check out the products active ingredient percentage and price before you purchase your next herbicide, or insecticide for that matter.

Well, I hope this article has taught you a few things about land stewardship resources. Good luck with your endeavors and remember for any questions, give your Tribal MSU Extension Service a call or drop by and we'll discuss more tools of the trade.



Stewardship Learning



The MBCI Department of Natural Resources is working with Tim Oakes, USDA –NRCS Mississippi Choctaw Field Office planting Hickory King White Corn as a potential source for making hominy. Hickory King, Cherokee and Zuni Corn were planted for experimental use this fall.

Agriculture Improving Local Economy

Submitted by : Timothy Oakes

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the Federal department providing leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management. The key activities the Department engages in include: expanding markets for agricultural products and supporting international economic development; further developing alternative markets for agricultural products and activities; providing financing needed to help expand job opportunities and improve housing, utilities and infrastructure in rural America; enhancing food safety by taking steps to reduce the prevalence of food borne hazards from farm to table; improving nutrition and health by providing food assistance and nutrition education and promotion; and managing and protecting America's public and private lands working cooperatively with other levels of government and the private sector.

The USDA's Action Plan and the President's Memorandum on Tribal Consultation requires all Federal agencies to provide effective Tribal consultation and collaboration in the carrying out of their roles and responsibilities.





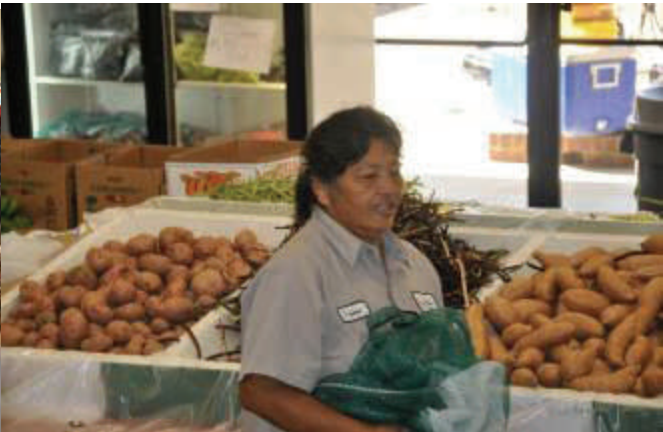
Choctaw Farmers Market at 10:30 AM



Darry calculating and inspecting produce



Brantley Willis shows Ms. Earlene karate moves to catch a house fly .



Ms Earlene says “ We need more peas”



Having fun at the Choctaw Farmers Market



Great selection of Fruits and Vegetables



The Choctaw Farmers Market

We would like to welcome everyone to come by the Choctaw Farmers Market this summer to get your freshest supply of fruits and vegetables. If you want to eat healthy and support your local market and producers, give us a try.

There is no doubt that eating more fruits and vegetables is one of the main building blocks of a healthy body. If you have never been to the Choctaw Farmers Market, look for us on Blackjack road about two miles past Geyser Falls Water Park at the Agriculture and Natural Resources Complex. on Ag Center Road . If you'd like call to check supply or ask questions you can reach us at 601-656-2070.

Also, if you're wondering where the produce comes from at the Choctaw Farmers Market, check out the pictures and you'll see faces of our local agriculture. Market is open for business on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8:00am until 1:00pm. We'll be glad to see you.





Garden Beans from a local Producer



"We're going to need a lot more Butter"



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